

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A method of determining a geographical area from which a connection is established in a communication network, the method including adding an origin identifier tag to the message header, the Origin identifier serving to identify the location of the user.
- 5 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the origin identifier tag identifies the access point of the user at the edge of the network.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the origin identifier tag is added to the User Profile by a gateway when the user connects to the network.
4. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the origin
10 identifier tag is allocated in a manner analogous to exchange service area numbers.
5. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a cross domain manager is used to manage the allocation of origin identifier tags.
6. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the origin
15 identifier tag is added to a Topology database in each gateway, ready to be added to the User Profile.
7. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the origin identifier tag is added by a LAN server to which the user is connected.
8. A packet network adapted to provide an origin identifier tag identifying a
20 geographical area from which a connection originates, the network including message tagging means connected to the network, each including a topographical database including a corresponding origin identifier tag for addition to message headers.
9. A packet network adapted to provide an origin identifier tag identifying a
25 geographical area from which a connection originates, the network including gateways at the edge of the network each including a topographical database including a corresponding origin identifier tag.
10. A packet network adapted to provide an origin identifier tag identifying a
geographical area from which a connection originates, the network including gateways at the edge of the network each including a topographical database including a corresponding origin identifier tag.
- 30 11. A method of identifying a geographical area from which a connection originates in a packet network substantially as described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

12. A communication network adapted to identify the geographical area from which a communication originates substantially as described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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ALCATEL

TO THE COMMISSION